

Marshfield Energy Committee Meeting Notes
Meeting to Plan the Potluck Meeting
June 6, 2016

Potluck meeting on June 11th, 3pm - 6pm (suggested/tentative end)
491 Ennis Hill Rd

Carpooling encouraged!

Agenda items for June 11th:

- Meeting is informal and meant for discussion and focus on topics
- Recruitment
 - List of names from the April meeting, review this
 - Wes has a suggestion of a name as well
 - Anne suggests recruiting a few women for the committee
- Direction of the committee
 - What do we focus on?
 - Anne is interested in transportation
 - Ed mentioned weatherization
 - Joel suggested engaging with Twinfield again
 - Nick suggested looking into what organizations/actions we can help out with, rather than organizing and leading our own work
 - Wes believes transportation and weatherization should be our topics
 - Possibly on hold due to village center designation work
 - It would be good to get an update from the planning commission about the status of this prior to this meeting.
 - Ed suggested political organizing for carbon tax, or helping out with VPIRG's effort
 - This is relevant for heating/weatherization and transportation
- Report on the climate change series
- Discuss mandate from town meeting vote
 - What to do with/about this?
- Outcome from the meeting
 - Dan suggests a strategic plan with schedule, responsibilities, a guideline of what we're going to do
 - Anne would like to see an agreed on purpose or sense of direction

Potluck:

- Anne is vegetarian and will bring a vegetarian dish
- Wes will bring a chilli and will leave meat out so it can be vegetarian
- Nick will bring a cole slaw of some kind
- Ed may bring some beer, Nick and Wes too

Energy Committee Retreat, Saturday June 11th, 2016
In attendance: Nick, Joel, Michael H., Anne, Dan, Wes,

Agenda items:

- Discussion of town meeting resolution
- Direction and how much energy for the ECCC
- Transportation and what actions can be taken
- Other efforts to latch onto, like VPIRG's carbon tax
- Keeping up with legislation and legislators about what is going on (suggestion from Rich)
- Weatherization
 - How to assess savings of places that have been retrofitted
 - Federal money for weatherization awarded to VT
- Education and outreach about climate change
- Recruitment
- Twinfield
- Discussion of the politics of the ECCC and what is appropriate?
- Town Plan and the ECCC's role in this
- How to Archive information that Rich has.

Direction and how much energy for ECCC:

- Priorities from committee members:
 - Weatherization
 - Carbon tax
 - Recruitment
 - Education
 - Transportation
- Nick: Not a lot of time, easier to latch on to other efforts. Agree with Dan about having a 1-year plan, or something similar, for what the ECCC is going to do.
- Dan: Has time and energy, but is often gone once a month or more so hard to commit to extended efforts. Comfortable with education and some “politicking”, but not as comfortable with highly technical things.
- Anne: Interested in transportation, but not sure what to do. Needs more information about the carbon tax and how it works.
- Michael: Winding down his business, so will have more time once that happens. He would like to work on the education side of things. Consider if committee members need to do all work, or if we can recruit students, community members, etc and delegate to them? Wonders about practical vs political things, like a carbon tax vs weatherization: committee role in this?
- Joel: Interested in all priorities mentioned above, especially those that are most effective and can get done. Be flexible about priorities, as things come up work on those (e.g. legislative efforts should be supported if they come up).
- Wes: Should be focusing on three drivers – Weatherization, transportation and education. Wes has less time in the summers for ECCC stuff, but picks up again towards the start of the school year. Plans to pursue the charging station for Marshfield.

Recruitment:

- Talk to people now, and let them know we're picking up in September

- Specific people to try and recruit:
 - “Victoria”, someone Rich mentioned to Anne. Doesn't know her last name, but sounds like she is interested and has some experience. Need to track her info down a bit and follow up.
 - Joe Astick: Nick to check in with Joe about if he can/wants to join.
 - Brian Hebert: Michael suggested him, sounds like a good fit.
 - Steven and Kathy Light: Has solar hot water and solar PV. Anne will follow up with them.
 - Betsy Brigham: May be a good fit. Works at Twinfield. Michael will follow up with her about this.
 - Lee Light: Likely up on energy issues, worth asking. Michael will follow up with her.
 - Michael Trupin: Likely a shoe in once he is in VT full time. Joel or Kathy to follow up with him.
 - Members of Rising Tide: May be a good group to get involved. Not sure how to get in touch with them.
 - John Medose: Kids are older now, may have time for the committee. Dan will mention it if he sees him.
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Education:

- Michael suggested creating road signs for promotion of riding the bus, like “if you rode the bus you could be reading”, saving energy, etc.
- Anne and Dan want to continue the climate change series. TBD what other speakers and presenters. They plan to start it up in September.
- Anne talked about an organization called Khalifa (spelling?) that works with NOAA to bring climate change education to libraries. They provide books (non-fiction and fiction), materials, other media, and a \$1000 grant for time spent and other things. Anne has talked to Susan about this a bit and she is onboard with applying for this.
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Town plan & town meeting and other thoughts and ideas

- Report out efforts and work completed each town meeting
- Consider the town plan, and what actions the ECCC should take on for this?
- Michael suggested a “state of the town” report looking at the state of Marshfield, state of things globally, etc, and step back and provide a 10,000ft view of things.
 - Some of this would be used in the town plan, but the rest of the content is a bit unique to this report.
 - Report would include energy usage statistics, renewables installations, overall consumption, etc.

Weatherization:

- Consider following up with people that have had energy audits to see what work has been done, or not done.
- The state has “solar home” tours. This is something we could promote.
- Follow up with Efficiency VT and or EICVT about the pot of federal money that was awarded for weatherization.

- Need to get on lists from Efficiency VT, EICVT, VECAN, and others. Michael had said he would subscribe to these things.
- Could the energy committee buy/get cameras and/or a blower door test kit that could be loaned out or used by folks that want it? E.g. maybe the library has these and they can be checked out. Also maybe train some Twinfield kids, or other community members who know how to use these things.

Transportation:

- Signs to promote bus ridership like “you could be reading if you were on the bus” or “you don't need to find parking if you ride the bus”, etc.
- Wes is interested, and is pursuing a grant for a charging station. This may not be possible to apply for because of the town getting a village center designation.

Twinfield:

- It would be good to get Charlie Wanzer to come to a meeting in the fall and talk about what is next.

Carbon tax:

- Subscribed to Energy Independent VT and participating in their actions. Not much else

Town meeting resolution:

- This should be a top priority for the ECCC when we start meeting again in September.
- The resolution roughly said that all town commissions and boards should look at what they are able to do to reduce energy and carbon pollution.
- Going through the list of town committees and commissions, what can they do to aid this resolution:

- Conservation commission – Anne is the main contact here:
 - Participating in a citizen science project to gather ecological data about Marshfield
 - Collaborating with the road crew to help establish a schedule for mowing to avoid allowing seeding of nuisance species
 - Suggested lectures or courses:
 - Cover crop species that are good at sequestering carbon in the soil.
 - What varieties of edibles are appropriate for the changing/changed climate.
 - Preserving forest in Marshfield (Stranahan, all forest, town forest, etc). Renewable Energy Credits may be available for preserving forest. Something the conservation commission can look into?

Recreation committee:

- Skating rink in the winter
- Basketball in the summer
- pickle ball?

Planning Commission:

- ECCC to write the energy & climate change portion of the town plan.
- Long term goals: Marshfield to be energy self-sufficient, transportation goals, building patterns to promote, etc.

- State has building energy standards, but they're not being enforced
- The ECCC can provide this to Bob Light to handout with permits
- Library Committee:
 - Ongoing work with the education efforts.
 - The library often hosts good materials
- Stranahan committee:
 - Encourage them to manage with an eye towards carbon sequestration, rather than logging, would be a big help.
- Development review board:
 - Ask/encourage them to hold projects to the state energy code.
- Road Commission:
 - Can we get them to look at biodiesel (if this is from recycled oil)
 - Considering fuel efficiency of vehicles when purchasing new/used vehicles
- Select board:
 - Consider nominating/electing a liaison to interface between the ECCC and selectboard.
 - What other town properties can have weatherization work done?
 - Can/Should we add another PV tracker to cover 100% of town energy used (if it isn't already)?
 - Get village water and/or wastewater covered by PV
- Village trustees:
 - Village water and/or wastewater covered by PV
- School board:
 - Dan suggests that Michael and Joel may be good people for this.
 - Weatherization, energy efficiency, source of energy, and others are all the responsibility of this board.

Strategy and/or plan for the next 1 year:

- Start talking in September with committees/commissions/boards about the town resolution, and what actions can be taken by them.
 - Have one ECCC person take on a committee/commission/board
- Conduct survey and compile results of energy use in Marshfield (for use in the town plan's Energy section)
- Get education series going again in conjunction with the library in September.
 - Grant from P.L.A.C.E for education
- Look into signs to promote transportation and other ECCC items
 - Figure out if lawn signs are OK, or something else?
- Electric Vehicle charging station grant. Consider applying for July deadline if the application for village center is in place.
- Establish who will be the contact point for VECAN, VPIRG, EICVT, Efficiency VT, etc.
 - Previously said this was Michael
- Keep track of the federal money for weatherization and see if there are any new EICVT programs coming.
 - If there are programs that we can get involved with consider this.
- Get involved with Twinfield, Joel and Michael, to see what causes can be advanced here.